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## A NEW SPECIES OF *LASIOPSOCUS* ENDERLEIN (PSOCOPTERA: PSOCIDAE) FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

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### Abstract

Material recorded as *Blaste michaelsoni* (Enderlein), from Muogamarra Nature Reserve, near Sydney (Smithers, 1977) has been re-examined and found to represent a new species. This is described as *Lasiopsocus simulatus* sp.n.

### Introduction

During work on a collection of Psocoptera from South Australia it was necessary to examine again a specimen from Muogamarra Nature Reserve, New South Wales, which had been identified as *Blaste michaelsoni* (Enderlein) (Smithers, 1977) because undoubted material of that species now available raised some doubt as to the reliability of the earlier identification. The identification has been found to be in error and the specimen is now regarded as belonging to an undescribed species. In order to validate the name prior to publication of studies on the South Australian material it is described here as *Lasiopsocus simulatus* sp. n. Originally described as a genus by Enderlein (1907) *Lasiopsocus* was placed as a subgenus of *Blaste* Kolbe by Roesler (1944).

### *Lasiopsocus simulatus* sp. n.

*Blaste michaelsoni* (Enderlein). Smithers, 1977, *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 31(7):282 (nec Enderlein 1907).

*Types.* NEW SOUTH WALES: 1 ♂ (holotype), ex *Eucalyptus* sp., Muogamarra Nature Reserve, 1.viii.1974, C. N. and A. S. Smithers. In the Australian Museum. This specimen was previously recorded as *Blaste michaelsoni* (Smithers, 1977).

## MALE

Coloration (in alcohol). Very similar to *L. dicellus* Smithers. Head pale, but brown as follows: a double row of irregular confluent spots adjacent to each compound eye, across back of vertex and on either side of median epicranial suture; a broad spot on frons anterior to ocelli; a line in position of anterior arms of epicranial suture from ocelli to antenna base; a ring around antenna base; a mark below compound eye on gena; postclypeal stripes and the labrum. Median postclypeal stripes closer and darker than lateral stripes. Ocellar tubercle black. Scape and pedicel brown; flagellum very dark brown. Eyes black. First and second maxillary palp segments pale, third brown, fourth dark brown. Dorsum of mesothorax dark, shiny brown, a little paler where parapsidal sutures meet. Fore legs pale brown, except for darker apex of tibia and tarsal segments. Meso- and metathoracic legs similar but coxae dark brown. Fore wings hyaline, without pattern; pterostigma brown; veins dark brown. Hind wings hyaline; veins brown. Abdomen pale, terminal structures very dark brown.

*Morphology.* Length of body: 3.6 mm. General morphology, size and appearance very similar to *L. dicellus*. Length of flagellar segments:  $f_1$ : 1.2 mm.;  $f_2$ : 0.96 mm. Eyes fairly large but not reaching level of vertex. IO/D: 1.9; PO: 0.91. Measurements of hind leg: F: 1.20 mm.; T: 2.40 mm.;  $t_1$ : 0.56 mm.;  $t_2$ : 0.16 mm.; rt: 3.5: 1; ct: 22, 2. Fore wing length: 5.3 mm.; width: 1.5 mm. Hind wing length: 4.0 mm.; width: 1.3 mm. Venation as in *L. dicellus*. Epiproct and associated structure (fig. 4) similar to those of *L. dicellus* but dorsal flaps a little narrower and the lobe which lies over the epiproct has straight sides and is a little wider apically. Ventroposterior extension of the ninth tergite with dorsal side of apex more pointed (fig. 3). Hypandrium (fig. 1) similar to that of *L. dicellus* but with a more rounded hind margin (transverse in *L. dicellus*). Phallosome (fig. 2) similar to that of *L. discellus* but distal teeth relatively longer.

## FEMALE

Unknown, but probably has patterned wings.

## Discussion

*L. simulatus* differs from *L. michaelseni* Enderlein, the type species of the genus from Western Australia, in being smaller and darker, with a fore wing length of less than 6 mm as opposed to 7 mm in *L. michaelseni*. The wing setae are large and conspicuous in *L. michaelseni* but small and inconspicuous in *L. simulatus*. The structures associated with the epiproct differ in proportions and the arms of the phallosome are narrower in *L. michaelseni* than in *L. simulatus*.

*L. dicellus* Smithers, from South Australia, and *L. simulatus* are very similar to one another and it is possible that the minor differences in the form of the hypandrium (hind margin in particular), phallosome (proportions of parts) and structure associated with epiproct (proportions of structures)



Figs 1-4. *Lasiopsocus simulatus* sp. n.: (1) hypandrium; (2) phallosome; (3) ventro-posterior extension of ninth tergite; (4) epiproct and associated structures.

are not indicative of specific difference. On the other hand *L. dicellus* paratypes from South Australia do not show proportions similar to the single specimen from Muogamarra Nature Reserve. For the present, therefore, it is considered that they are two very closely related species differing but slightly in the proportions of their terminal abdominal structures.

#### Acknowledgement

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#### References

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